

WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE REVOLVING FUND

The Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF, or State Superfund) is a program established by the Arizona State Legislature to:

- conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring,
- study health effects,
- perform emergency remedial actions and
- conduct long-term remedial action programs.

The WQARF was created under the Environmental Quality Act of 1986 to support hazardous substance cleanup efforts in the state. The fund is dependent upon legislative appropriations, cost recovery from responsible parties, corporate income tax and special fees.

45-618. Arizona water quality fund

A. An Arizona water quality fund is established for agency participation in activities related to title 49, chapter 2, article 5 and coordination of data bases necessary for those activities. The director shall administer the fund.

49-282. Water quality assurance revolving fund

C. At the beginning of each fiscal year the director shall transfer the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars from the water quality assurance revolving fund to the Arizona water quality fund established by section *45-618*.

THE ROLE OF ADWR IN WQARF

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has a small but well-defined role in the protection of Arizona's water quality. The Department receives \$800,000 annually to support a small staff and to perform various tasks associated with the state's Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund.

Among the activities the Department performs are:

- Project management, including review of technical and policy documents and representation of the agency at technical and public meetings;
- Evaluation of Notices of Intent to Drill for water quality impacts and notification of applicants of the existence of contaminated groundwater;
- Evaluation of Notices of Intent to Drill for well construction to prevent cross-contamination of aquifers by improperly constructed wells;
- Evaluation and inspection of wells that are suspected of causing vertical cross-contamination of aquifers;
- Development and implementation of WQARF rules regarding well inspections and review of Notices of Intent to Drill;
- Development of site-specific well construction standards;
- Representation on the WQARF Advisory Board; and
- General coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding WQARF and other hazardous waste sites.

The Department works cooperatively on WQARF programs with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, which administers the majority of WQARF-related projects. The WQARF program receives annual dedicated funding of \$18 million.